



Finance - American Reinvestment and Recovery Act

Education Commission of the States • 700 Broadway, Suite 810 • Denver, CO 80203-3442 • 303.299.3600 • Fax: 303.296.8332 • www.ecs.org

Investing in Innovation Fund - Update

March 11, 2010

On Monday March 8, 2010, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan released the Department of Education's (DOE) [final priorities](#) for grants under the \$650 million Investing in Innovation Fund (i3 grants). The i3 grants are part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and are directed toward **individual school districts or groups of school districts and entrepreneurial nonprofits partnering with school districts**. Although states are not eligible to apply, there may be ways in which states could assist districts or consortiums with their grant applications.

Timeline

- Intent to apply due: April 1, 2010 (not required but strongly encouraged by the DOE)
- Final application due: May 11, 2010
- Applications reviewed: Late spring/summer 2010
- Grants announced: September, 2010

Application Grading Scale

	Scale-up Grants	Validation Grants	Development Grants
Need for Project and Quality of Project Design	15 points	20 points	25 points
Strength of Research and Significance and Magnitude of Effect	20	15	10
Experience of Eligible Applicant	15	20	25
Quality of Project Evaluation	15	15	15
Strategy and Capacity to Bring to Scale	15	10	5
Sustainability	10	10	10
Quality of Management Plan and Personnel	10	10	10
	100 total points	100 total points	100 total points

Cost Sharing or Matching

- Eligible applicants must obtain private sector matching funds or in-kind donations equal to at least 20% of its grant award.
- Following peer review of applications, an award will not be made unless the applicant provides adequate evidence that the full 20% match has been committed or the Secretary approves the eligible applicant's request to reduce the matching-level requirement.

- The Secretary may consider decreasing the matching requirement in the most exceptional circumstances, on a case-by-case basis.

Resources

- i3 website with application package: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/innovation/index.html>
- Questions for DOE: i3@ed.gov

Help When You Need it:

Contact Molly Ryan in the ECS Information Clearinghouse at (303) 299-3614, or mryan@ecs.org.

© 2010 by the Education Commission of the States (ECS). All rights reserved. ECS is the only nationwide, nonpartisan interstate compact devoted to education.

ECS encourages its readers to share our information with others. To request permission to reprint or excerpt some of our material, please contact the ECS Information Clearinghouse at 303.299.3675 or e-mail ecs@ecs.org.

Equipping Education Leaders, Advancing Ideas